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# SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES



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# SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES

*The Official Organ of the South African Library Association*

Vol. 16

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## HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE MORE IMPORTANT LIBRARIES IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

### VIII. THE NATAL SOCIETY PUBLIC LIBRARY, PIETERMARITZBURG

*Compiled by S. J. KRITZINGER<sup>1</sup>*

#### HISTORY

THE NATAL SOCIETY was established in 1851 with the object of developing the Colony by making known its many resources and publishing a record of them under the auspices of the Society. It started many activities to further the cause of culture in every possible way, and it also concerned itself with the preservation of publications in the native languages. The list of the president and officials contains many names closely connected with the history of the colony in early days, e.g. Hon. Henry Cloete, Hon. John Bird, Sir Theophilus Shepstone, Dean Green, Dr R. J. Mann and Dr P. C. Sutherland.

The Public Library originated in a small library which had been started in 1846 and which was taken over later by the Natal Society. It made slow progress at first and during the early sixties was at a low ebb, as were the affairs of the Colony. From 1865 things went better and the membership was gradually increased. In 1874 the Society obtained a charter of incorporation under Act 35 of 1874. The present site was acquired at the same time.

In 1881 the first complete catalogue of the Library was compiled. The number of books at that date was 5,200, the issue was 15,736, the subscriptions £421 and the municipal and government grants amounted to £150.

It is interesting to read from the report of that year that the circulation figure of the learned reviews and magazines taken by the society

<sup>1</sup> Revised by the Librarian, Natal Society Library. See note in *S.Afr. Libr.* 13(4)79, Apr. 1946.

## SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

reached 9,143. 1881 seems to have been a year of great activity for we also learn that an art exhibition sponsored by the Society was visited by 2,000 persons, £100 being taken in admission fees.

At the same time the Council of the Society was maintaining and housing a Natural History Museum but was finding the upkeep increasingly difficult and was deplored its inability to find a curator. In 1902 the Museum was given up, the exhibits were presented to the Government and the room put at the disposal of the Library.

From this time the maintenance of a public library with reading rooms and the arrangement of public lectures were the only activities left in the hands of the Natal Society. The list of lectures is an extensive one ; evidently in the days when the town did not possess four cinemas a lecture was an event. The subjects show great variety, from the most abstruse to those that could only be described as light entertainment. The most notable were those given by the Hon. Henry Cloete on the immigration of the Dutch Voortrekkers from the Cape Colony. The Society was also mainly responsible for the inception of *The Annals of Natal*, by the Hon. John Bird.

About this date, 1902, the Library possessed 15,000 well-chosen books, with accommodation for as many more. By 1906 the whole Library had been remodelled and refurnished. At that time the Natal government grant was £350 and the municipal one £125. The whole Library in 1906 was classified under the Dewey decimal system, and a catalogue was published in 1907. In 1912 the grant provided by the Union Government was £400 ; this was reduced to £350 p.a. in 1915 and was withdrawn in 1922. The municipal grant in 1903 was £100 p.a., in 1906 it was increased to £125 p.a., in 1910 to £150, in 1921 to £250, in 1929 to £500 and in 1935 to £650. Since that year there has been no increase.

In 1930 a large new book room with a gallery was built, and the whole building reconditioned at a cost of £4,900. This new section of the building has accommodation for 50,000 books and the original rooms are now used as reading rooms and children's library.

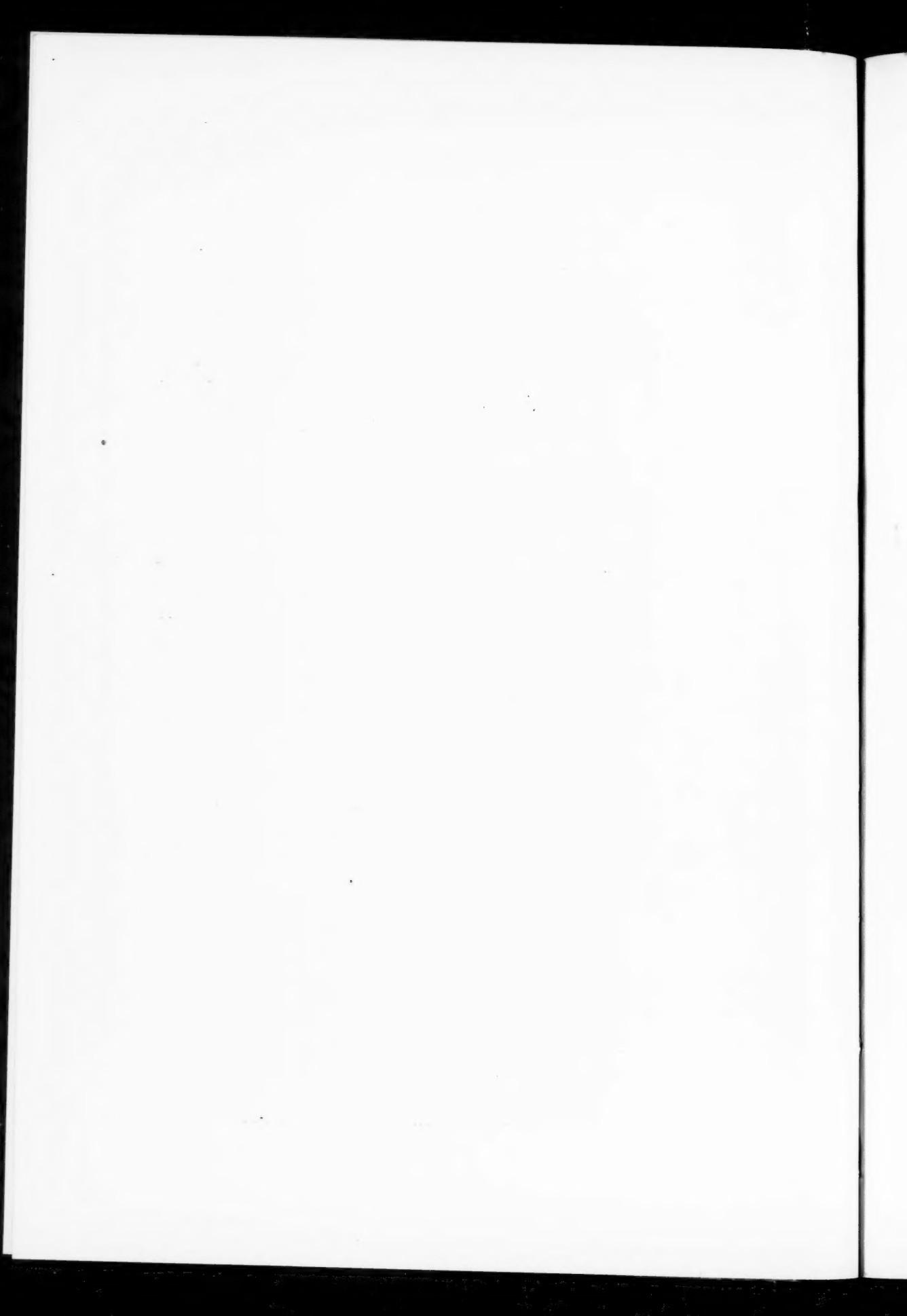
### BOOK-STOCK AND ACCESSIONS

The total number of volumes in stock, excluding blue books and pamphlets, is 64,210. The main sections consist of the following :—

History	3,195	French	729
Biography	5,319	Science	1,445
Travel	2,690	Useful & fine arts	2,175



NATAL SOCIETY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



## HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE MORE IMPORTANT LIBRARIES

Sociology & philosophy	2,404	Afrikaans & Nederlands	2,576
Literature	5,448	Music	3,142
Philosophy & religion	2,030	Fiction	18,892
Africana	2,104	Children's	4,990
Bound magazines	2,126	Reference	4,945

Additions during the year were :—

General literature	615	Children's	252
Fiction	847	Reference	33
<hr/>			1,747

Issues numbered	118,054
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## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Africana Collection is housed in a separate room. Many of the gaps in the collection were filled by the efforts of Mr W. R. Morrison when he was an official of the Natal Society. The Reid Collection, a part of the late Professor Reid's library, was given to the Society in 1944.

The Society also possesses a good collection of classical French fiction.

The Music Section has an excellent foundation for a music library. There is something of real interest from the early Bodleian music up to the 19th century, for both instrumentalists and vocalists. There are miniature scores of many symphonies, concertos and sonatas for violin, cello and piano and instrumental duets, trios, quartets and quintets, as well as music for the organ and the flute. On the vocal side there are part songs from many periods, oratorios, cantatas, trios and duets. The solo songs include French, German, Italian, Afrikaans and a wide collection of English music. There are some grand opera scores and an almost complete collection of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. It is of interest to note that the Natal Society is a member of the Purcell Society, and has the edition of Purcell's music published by the Society.

## COPYRIGHT

The Natal Society is the copyright library of Natal. All copyright books are kept but are not housed separately from the general stock. Lack of space prevents this section being efficiently administered but the Council is hoping to build an addition so as to make more adequate provision for it.

## SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES

### PLAY READING GROUP AND EXHIBITIONS

A Play Reading Group run in connexion with the Library was founded in 1930. It functioned most successfully, meeting every month and reading every variety of play. In 1945 the name was changed to the Natal Society Drama Group and it then added to its activities the full production of plays.

### EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions of photographs and books lent by the United Kingdom Information Office were held at intervals during the last two years. Exhibitions of art books and etchings sponsored by the Maritzburg Art Society also attracted a good deal of public attention.

### FINANCE

The Library is financed from three sources—subscriptions, a municipal grant and a small provincial grant.

Subscriptions increased considerably during the war years, due no doubt to the numerous troops stationed in Pietermaritzburg from time to time. The peak year was 1945 when £2,047. 3s. 6d. was received from this source. This revenue is, however, now tending to fall, probably because of competition from "shop" libraries.

The municipal grant for many years past has been £650, plus a grant in relief of rates amounting to £188. Falling revenue and increasing expenditure (particularly in the direction of higher cost of books, salaries and wages) compelled the Council of the Society to seek further financial assistance from the Corporation. A small additional grant has been approved, but it is felt that the door is not closed to further negotiations with the municipal body.

The Province makes a grant of £100 p.a. towards the Juvenile Section.

### LAND AND BUILDINGS

The Society owns its property, which has a municipal valuation of £12,900, but which, because of its position, is in fact considerably more valuable than that figure. In 1930 a loan of £4,000 was taken from the Corporation for the extension of the Library premises. This loan has been reduced from time to time as funds were available and the debt now stands at £500, the rate of interest being 4½ per cent p.a.

## THE CAPE LIBRARY ORDINANCE

### LIBRARIANS

The first librarian to hold the post for any length of time was Mr Alexander Beale, who remained with the Society from 1865 to 1899, when Mr John G. Ross was appointed. To the latter the Society owes much—the classification of the Library on the Dewey decimal system in 1906 and the publication of the catalogue in 1907. In 1909 he left to become the librarian of the Kimberley Public Library.

Subsequent librarians :—

Miss Hopkins	1909-1923
Miss E. Lepper	1923-1924
Miss E. C. Mitchell	1924-1927
Miss H. Gibbon	1927-

## THE CAPE LIBRARY ORDINANCE

AMONG the many landmarks arising on the library landscape the passing of the Cape Library Ordinance on 21 June 1948<sup>1</sup> is certainly one of the most prominent. For many reasons, which are touched on in the articles by Mr Immelman and Mr Kritzinger below, the Cape has been slower off the mark with its provincial library scheme than the Transvaal. (The Orange Free State has just started an experimental scheme in a small way and Natal is still spying out the land). The Ordinance is the first comprehensive library legislation to be passed in the Union. The line of approach differs considerably from that followed in the Transvaal, where participation in the provincial scheme is voluntary (subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions) and local public libraries retain their autonomy; in the Cape all public libraries will ultimately fall under the control of the Administrator, the local committees in the final reckoning having advisory powers only (except in such matters as the administration of bequests). The progress of these divergent approaches will be watched with the keenest interest.

The passing of the Ordinance and the voting of a considerable initial sum for its implementation will open the gates to vast new fields of endeavour and whet the ambitions of librarians and librarians-to-be throughout the country, and everyone will join Mr Immelman in his hope that the provincial treasury will be able to carry the commitments imposed on it by this bold and far-reaching ordinance.

<sup>1</sup> CAPE PROVINCE. Draft ordinance to make provision for the establishment of a free library service for the province and for matters incidental thereto. (In: *Official gazette extraordinary* 2193 : 553-59, 26 Oct. 1945 ; revised in 2356 : 1338-46, 16 June 1948).

## BIBLIOTEEKWETGEWING VIR KAAPLAND

R. F. M. IMMELMAN

### VOORGESKIEDENIS

OP 21 JUNIE 1948 het die Provinciale Raad vir die Kaapprovinsie eenparig 'n ordonnansie aangeneem wat voorsiening maak vir die instelling van 'n Kaapse Provinciale Biblioteekdienst. Hierdeur word die agjarige stryd van die Kaapse Provinciale Adviserende Biblioteekkomitee met sukses bekroon. Sedert sy benoeming in Augustus 1940 het hierdie Komitee hom beywer vir 'n provinsiale stelsel van vry biblioteke. Eers het die Komitee 'n opname gedoen en verslag uitgebring van sy bevindings wat in 1944 in druk verskyn het. In 1945 is 'n konsept-ordonnansie<sup>1</sup> opgestel, wat om finansiële redes nou eers by die Provinciale Raad ingedien is, nadat dit enige wysigings ondergaan het. Een van die redes waarom die Kaapse biblioteeksaak so stadig gevorder het was die wisseling van Administrateurs vier keer gedurende hierdie tydperk. Maar stap vir stap is vordering gemaak, soos o.a. bewys is toe MnR S. J. Kritzinger, bibliotekaris van die Landbou-biblioteek, Pretoria, in September 1945 benoem is as die eerste Kaaplandse biblioteekorganiseerde.

Gedurende 1946 en 1947 het MnR Kritzinger die hele Kaapprovinsie deurgereis en sowat 200 openbare vergaderings, bestaande uit verteenwoordigers van die plaaslike biblioteekkomitee, afdelingsraad en munisipaliteit, toegespreek insake die voorgestelde vry biblioteekdienst. Byna oral is die plan geesdriftig begroet en MnR Kritzinger het veel daartoe bygedra om vooroordeel teen belastingondersteunde biblioteke te verwyder en openbare mening ten gunste daarvan te skep. Die werkzaamhede van die Vereniging vir Boekverspreiding en die plattelandse diens vir kleurlinge van die Kaaplandse Vereniging vir Biblioteekuitbreiding is in Oktober 1946 deur die Provincie ingelyf by sy bestaande Biblioteekafdeling, wat sedert 1874 al bemoeid was met geldelike toelaes aan die 185 openbare biblioteke in Kaapland. Vandag word sowat 110 sentra elk voorsien van kiste van 50 boeke wat elke halfjaar omgeruil word. Dit geld vir blankes, en 'n soortgelyke diens vir kleurlinge verskaf boeke aan sowat 25 sentra. Hierdie organisasie maak reeds deel uit van die provinsiale biblioteekdienst,

<sup>1</sup> Vgl. KAAPPROVINSIE. Konsep-ordonnansie om voorsiening te maak vir die instelling van 'n biblioteekdienst vir die Provincie en sake wat daarmee in verband staan. (In *Offisiële koerant* 2193: 553-59, 26 Okt. 1945; gewysig in 2356: 1338-47, 16 Jun. 1948).

## BIBLIOTEEKWETGEWING VIR KAAPLAND

wat kosteloos aan lesers in verafgeleë plekke leesstof verskaf. Op sy beurt sal dit nou opgaan in die nuwe meer intensiewe provinsiale skema.

### STEDELIKE EN PLATTELANDSE BIBLIOTEEKGEBIEDE

Die ordonnansie verdeel die Provinse in plattelandse en stedelike biblioteekgebiede. Enige stad met meer as 15,000 blanke inwoners, of 50,000 blankes en nie-blankes tesame, kan as 'n stedelike biblioteekgebied verklaar word en 'n munisipale biblioteekdiens instel. Mits dit 'n vry biblioteekdiens is en mits 'n plan vir sodanige diens aan die Proviniale Biblioteekraad voorgelê en deur hom goedgekeur word, sal die Provinse *minstens vyftig persent* van die totale koste van die biblioteekdiens binne 'n bepaalde stedelike gebied bydra.

Die orige gedeeltes van die Kaapprovinsie, buitekant die verklaarde stedelike gebiede, word dan in plattelandse streekbiblioteek-gebiede ingedeel, waarskynlik sowat 10 of 15 streke. In elke streek sal 'n streekboekery opgerig word en sal 'n streekbibliotekaris en ander personeel aangestel word. Bestaande plaaslike biblioteke sal dan omgeskep word in takboekerye of filiale van die streekbiblioteek en sal vanuit die streekboekery voorsien word van 'n boekervoir wat na gelang van omstandighede maandeliks of driemaandeliks omgeruil word. Die nodige herbind van boeke sal ook deur die streekboekerye onderneem word. 'n Boek-vragmotor sal waarskynlik vir elke streek of elke twee streke aangeskaf word wat boeke tussen die streekboekery en die takke sal vervoer. Klompies van 50 of meer boeke sal in sommige omgewings op bepaalde plekke afgelaai en van tyd tot tyd omgeruil word, b.v. vir 'n aantal boerfamilies wat naby mekaar woon, of by 'n skool vir die ouers van die leerlinge. Soveel moontlike plaaslike boekverspreidingsentrum sal gesoek word.

### AFSONDERLIKE DIENSTE VIR BLANKES EN NIE-BLANKES

Die ordonnansie bepaal dat afsonderlike dienste vir blankes en nie-blankes ingestel sal word, sowel in stedelike as in plattelandse biblioteke.

### BIBLIOTEEKKOMITEES

In die ordonnansie word bepaal dat bestaande boekerye tot die diens kan toetree, maar die provinsiale owerheid kan ook nuwe boekerye stig. Al sulke plaaslike boekerye sal geregtig wees op 'n biblioteekkomitee van nie meer as 7 lede nie, wat deur die geregistreerde leners jaarliks gekies word. Afdelingsrade en munisipaliteite kry elk een verteenwoordiger op elke plaaslike biblioteekkomitee. Sulke komitees sal

## BIBLIOTEEKWETGEWING VIR KAAPLAND

beheer oor hulle biblioteke hê onderhewig aan die beleid van die Provinse en sal vertoe tot die Administrateur kan rig i.v.m. aanstelling van biblioteekpersoneel, e.d.m. Die plaaslike komitee mag ook geskenke of bemakings ontvang en behou vir die plaaslike biblioteek. Die ordonnansie verduidelik ook dat die Administrateur geen biblioteek sal onteien nie, maar eiendom of boekvoorraad of laste alleen na raadpleging en onderhandeling met die bestaande komitee sal oorneem. Sodoende kan spesiale boekversamelings vir plaaslike besit en gebruik behou word.

## FINANSIERING

Aan die ander kant lê die ordonnansie dit duidelik neer dat die Provinse volle verantwoordelikheid vir alle onkoste verbonde aan die biblioteekskema aanvaar. Die enigste amendement op die Konsepondonnansie wat in die Proviniale Raad voorgestel en deur die Administrateur aangeneem is, is die klosule waardeur munisipaliteit en afdelingsrade binne 'n streekbiblioteekgebied een persent van hul jaarlikse inkomste uit algemene belasting tot die finansies van die biblioteekskema sou bygedra het. Dit is geskraap. Nou rus die volle finansiële verantwoordelikheid op die Provinse. 'n Mens hoop en vertrou net dat die provinsiale kas dit sal kan bekostig om geleidelik die skema oor die hele Provinie uit te brei vir sowel blankes as nie-blankes. Tot op datum het die Provinie aan biblioteek-toelaes sowat £15,000 p.j. uitgegee. Op die begroting vir 1948/49 word £25,000 vir die nuwe biblioteekdiens aangegee. Aangesien die jaar al half verstreke is, is dit 'n bemoedigende teken van daadwerklike vasberadenheid aan die kant van die Proviniale owerheid om binnekort 'n aanvang te maak om die skema in werking te stel. Dit word beraam dat die nuwe skema wanneer dit in volle werking is, *minstens* £100,000–£150,000 p.j. vir blankes en £40,000 of £60,000 vir nie-blankes gaan kos.

## BIBLIOTEEKRAAD

Die ordonnansie maak ook voorsiening vir 'n sentrale Bibliotekraad van ag persone, waarvan tenminste twee „opgeleide of gekwalifiseerde bibliotekaris” moet wees. Die Vereniging van Afdelingsrade en die Kaapse Municipale Vereniging benoem elkeen een verteenwoordiger en die ander word deur die Administrateur aangestel vir 'n tydperk van drie jaar. Die Raad moet nie minder as eenmaal elke drie maande vergader nie. Die pligte van die Raad kan as volg uiteengesit word :

Die Raad moet, onderworpe aan die beheer en aanwysings van die Administrateur,

## SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES

- (a) die biblioteke in die Provincie bestuur, onderworpe aan die bepallings van hierdie ordonnansie en die beleid wat deur die Administrateur goedgekeur word ;
- (b) die vertoë van plaaslike komitees afhandel ;
- (c) skenkings en bemakings vir bibliotekdoleindes bestuur ;
- (d) aanbevelings doen insake die aanstelling van biblioteek-personeel en ander beampies vir die diens ;
- (e) die geldelike en statistiese opgawes van alle streekbiblioteke ondersoek, asook die van alle openbare biblioteke in die diens wat hy nodig ag ;
- (f) die Administrateur van raad dien insake alle aspekte van die Provinciale bibliotekdiens.

### BEVOEGDHEDEN VAN DIE ADMINISTRATEUR

Hoewel plaaslike bibliotekarisse wat reeds in diens is beskerm word, word dit nogtans duidelik gestel dat voortaan „die bevoegdhede en pligte en aanstellings- en diensvoorraades van plaaslike bibliotekarisse en ander beampies deur die Administrateur vasgestel word”. Dit beteken dat hy kan eis dat toekomstige plaaslike bibliotekaresses in klein dorpies minstens gematrikuleer moet wees en dat hulle van tyd tot tyd kort kursusse moet loop of selfs die Elementaire kursus van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging moet aflê. Die ordonnansie gee die Administrateur sekere magte om regulasies i.v.m. die diens op te stel, b.v. „vir die veiligheid, goeie bewaring en onderhoud van eiendom wat vir die diens aangeskaf word” of aangaande „die tydperke waarvoor en die voorwardes waarop [en] . . . die persone aan wie boeke . . . uitgeleen word”. Kortom, regulasies kan gemaak word „vir die behoorlike nakoming van die vereistes van die diens”, oor watter saak ook al.

### SLOT

Die ordonnansie beoog 'n algehele hervorming van die biblioteke in die Kaapprovincie. Hoewel dit tamelijk algemeen gestel is, word voorsiening gemaak vir alle aspekte van die nuwe vrye diens. Dit sal afhang van die nuwe Biblioteekraad en die biblioteekpersoneel wat nog aangestel moet word of die skema in die praktyk in 'n langgevoelde behoefté gaan voorsien. Die Administrateur het so pas aangekondig dat 'n provinciale biblioteekorganiseerder en assistent-organiseerder met ingang Junie aangestel is. Dis 'n reuse taak wat hulle wag en 'n splinternuwe organisasie wat van die grond af moet opgebou word. Kaapland staan aan die vooraand van 'n algehele biblioteekontwikkeling: deur die ordonnansie is 'n vaste hoeksteen vir die toekoms gelê.

## 'N VRY PROVINSIALE BIBLIOTEEKDIENS VIR KAAPLAND<sup>1</sup>

S. J. KRITZINGER

*Gewese Provinciale Biblioteekorganiseerder*

IN DIE twee jaar dienstyd as biblioteekorganiseerder moes ek die hele Provinsie bereis en op elke dorp 'n vergadering, wat vroegtydig belê is, toespreek. Hierdie vergaderings het meesal onder voorsitterskap van die magistraat, die skoolhoof of die burgemeester geskied. Daarheen is verteenwoordigers van alle belangstellende verenigings of liggeme uitgenooi, soos o.a. die volgende : die munisipaliteit, afdelingsraad, skool, skoolkomitee, skoolraad, kerkraad, biblioteekkomitee, A.C.V.V., V.L.V., boerevereniging en so meer. Aangesien daar aanvanklik weens onkunde of misverstand 'n geweldige teenkanting teen die beoogde vry Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens bestaan het, moes alles in werking gestel word om die struikelblokke uit die weg te ruim. Dis gevind dat dit die beste gedoen kon word deur op elke dorpie die skema te verduidelik en die menigvuldige vrae te beantwoord. Dit het dan ook die nodige uitwerking gehad, sodat na besoek van feitlik elke dorp in Kaapland ek sonder teenspraak kan beweer dat op sowat 95 persent van die vergaderings die beoogde skema in beginsel aanvaar is.

Ek is in die loop van tyd van verskillende kante genader oor die inhoud van my toesprake by hierdie vergaderings, dus gee ek dit hier weer.

In 1928 het die Carnegie Corporation of New York, in saamwerking met die Unie-regering, twee vooraanstaande bibliotekarisse van oorsee, mnr S. A. Pitt van Glasgow, Skotland, en mnr Milton Ferguson van die Verenigde State van Amerika, uitgestuur om ons land te besoek en verslag uit te bring oor die biblioteektoestande. By hulle vertrek het hulle gerapporteer dat die biblioteke in ons land vêr agter die van die res van die beskaafde wêreld staan, en as oorsaak het hulle genoem die subskripsiestelsel wat oral in gebruik is.

As gevolg van hulle komste hierheen het die biblioteeksaak in die Unie 'n groot stoot vorentoe gekry, sodat die Regering in 1936 besluit het om 'n Inter-departemente Komitee in die lewe te roep om 'n deeglike ondersoek in te stel na die biblioteekwese in ons land. Hierdie Komitee het in 1937 verslag gedoen en o.a. as volg bevind :—

<sup>1</sup> *Vgl. KAAPPROVINSIE. Konsep-ordonnansie om voorseening te maak vir die instelling van 'n biblioteekdiens vir die Provinsie en sake wat daarmee in verband staan. (In Offisiële koerant 2193 : 553-59, 26 Okt. 1945 ; gewysig in 2356 : 1338-47, 16 Jun. 1948).*

Hierdie artikel is geskryf voordat die ordonnansie aangeneem is. Ons druk dit nou as aanvulling by Mn Immelman se beskouing.

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,Die Komitee is van mening dat die onmiddellike oorsake van die agterlikheid van biblioteke in die Unie in die meeste gevalle gevind kan word in die gehegtheid dwarsdeur die land aan die *subskripsiestelsel*. Ofskoon niemand in die reël toegang tot subskripsie-biblioteke geweier word nie, word die volle gebruik van hulle fasilitete beperk tot die baie weiniges wat in staat en gewillig is om daarvoor te betaal. 'n Mens kan nie aanneem dat hulle die groter publiek dien nie, nog minder dat hulle 'n nasionale bibliotekdiens uitmaak nie. Dit is daarom nie te verwonder dat goewerments- en munisipale steun aan sulke biblioteke baie gering is nie. As gevolg van hulle individualistiese karakter leen hulle hul nie maklik aan koördinasie nie, met die gevolg dat hulle nie alleen duur is nie, maar uit die oogpunt van die gemeenskap ook baie ondoeltreffend. Hulle beliggaam idees wat in vooruitstrewende lande in 'n groot mate verouderd is.'

Wat die platteland betref het die Komitee as volg gerapporteer :—

,Die feit dat die teenswoordige bibliotekstelsel van die Unie daar nie in geslaag het om in die behoeftes van die volk te voorsien nie, kom die duidelikste op die platteland aan die lig. Ten spyte van die aanwesigheid van klein subskripsie- en skooldibliotekies in die dorpies, die prysenswaardige pogings van sommige van die groter dorpsbiblioteke, die spesiale landboudiens van Pretoria en die begin van 'n vrye plattelandse diens in die Transvaal, kom die gewone bibliotek-fasilitete binne die bereik van slegs 'n klein deeltjie van die bevolking. Tog het die ondervinding van ander lande met ooreenstemmende plattelandse toestande aangetoon, dat dit met die regte leiding teen 'n betreklike klein koste moontlik behoort te wees om te voorsien in die behoeftes van die ver verspreide inwoners van die platteland, in soverre dit 'n bibliotekdiens betref wat in hoofsaak met dié van die stede vergelyk kan word. Die instelling van so 'n diens in die Unie is volgens die sienswyse van die Komitee nie alleen hoog nodig uit die oogpunt van die plattelandse bevolking self nie, maar ook in die beste belang van die hele gemeenskap.'

Dieselde Komitee het ook aanbeveel dat in elke provinsie 'n adviserende bibliotekkomitee in die lewe geroep word met die doel om die Administrateur van raad te bedien aangaande bibliotekbeleid. Hierdie Komitee is in 1939 deur die Administrateur benoem en het in sy gedrukte verslag van 1944 bevind dat die huidige biblioteke, soos hulle op die oomblik saamgestel is, net ongeveer 3 persent van die blanke bevolking in die Provincie as lede het.

Die waarheid is dat die Provinsiale Administrasie sowat £15,000 per jaar in die vorm van toelaes aan biblioteke betaal en slegs 'n klein

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persentasie van die bevolking maak daarvan gebruik. Dit is dus duidelik dat daar iewers 'n groot fout is, en die fout lê by die subskripsiestelsel.

Dieselde Komitee het ook aanbeveel dat die vorige aanbeveling van die Goewermentskomitee aanvaar word en dat 'n begin gemaak sal word met die instelling van 'n vry plattelandse biblioteekdiens. Die Uitvoerende Komitee het die aanbeveling in beginsel aanvaar en in Oktober 1945 is 'n Konsep-ordonnansie in die *Provinsiale koerant* gepubliseer wat ten doel het die instelling van die beoogde skema.

Die oogmerk is om die Provinsie in streke te verdeel—waarskynlik 15. In elkeen van die streke sal 'n Streekbiblioteek opgerig word met 'n gekwalifiseerde tweetalige persoon aan die hoof. Hierdie persoon sal hoofsaaklik deur middel van 'n reisende biblioteek, na gehoop word sowat elke maand of ses weke, die verskillende biblioteke binne daardie gebied besoek. Behalwe dat hy boeke sal uitleen sal hy die biblioteke ook van raad en advies tot verbetering van hulle inrigtings bedien.

Die bedoeling is derhalwe nie om die bestaande biblioteke af te skaf nie, maar om hulle in te skakel in die hele skema. Vir die sukses van hierdie skema sal dit nodig wees dat die samewerking van die biblioteke verkry word, aangesien op elke dorp 'n biblioteek moet wees waarvandaan die boeke aan die bevolking uitgeleen word. Op plekke waar geen biblioteek is nie sal 'n biblioteek geskep word, en op sekere plekke in die platteland, waarskynlik by plaasskole of by poskantore of polisiestasies of selfs by sekere verenigings, sal versamelings boeke gelaat word waaryandaan hulle uitgeleen sal word aan die omliggende bevolking.

Dit is nie my bedoeling om die bestaande biblioteke te kritiseer nie. Ek wonder wat die toestand sou gewees het as daar geen subskripsie-biblioteke op die dorpe gewees het nie. Maar dit bly tog 'n feit dat sodra 'n biblioteek 'n subskripsie vra dan plaas hy 'n versperring tussen die biblioteek en die leser. Dit is ook waar dat baie van ons mense nie in staat is om 'n subskripsie van £1 of £2 per jaar te betaal nie. Bowendien is daar 'n groot massa van die bevolking wat, ofskoon hulle in staat sou wees om 'n jaargeld te betaal, nie van kleins-aff opgegroei het met boeke in hulle huise of op skool nie, en derhalwe het hulle nie die leesgewoonte aangekweek nie. Hierdie mense weet nie wat hulle verloor deur nie met goeie boeke om te gaan nie, en alleen as 'n vrye diens ingestel word sal dit moontlik wees om hulle te bereik. Die bedoeling is dus nie om die bestaande biblioteke uit te skakel nie, maar om hulle op die voorgestelde wyse te help om die subskripsiestelsel op te hef en sodoende hulle bates tot beskikking van die bevolking as 'n geheel te stel.

Verder sal daar op geen van die biblioteek se bates beslag gelê word

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nie. Daar is niks in die Konsep-ordonnansie of enige ander ordonnansie of wet wat die Provinciale Administrasie die mag gee om privaat besittinge te annekeer nie. Wat wel sal gebeur, is dat, alvorens die voorgestelde diens ingestel word in enige gebied, daar raadpleging sal wees tussen die Provinciale Administrasie en die biblioteekkomitees betrekende hulle bates. Die biblioteekkomitee sal dan na raadpleging met sy lede kan besluit wat om met die bates te maak. In hierdie verband is daar drie moontlikhede, naamlik : (1) al die bates kan gratis of by wyse van verkoop oorgedra word aan die Provinciale Administrasie ; (2) slegs sommige van die bates kan oorgedra word ; en (3) geen van die bates hoef op naam van die Provinciale Administrasie oorgeplaas te word nie. In hierdie laaste gevalsal die Ordonnansie voorsiening maak vir die skepping van 'n raad van trustees om te sorg vir die veilige bewaring van hierdie bates in belang van die plaaslike gemeenskap. Wat die Administrasie betrek, sal dit in alle geval verlang word dat geboue vryelik beskikbaar gestel word vir gebruik wanneer hierdie diens ingestel word.

In hierdie stelsel sal daar besonder baie klem gelê word op 'n diens vir kinders. Die kinders is die grootmense van môre, en indien 'n nasie van lesers opgebou moet word, sal dit nodig wees om by die kinders te begin. Daar sal in alle biblioteke 'n kinderhoekie wees en, waar enigsins moontlik, 'n aparte leeskamer met meubelment wat sal pas en boeke wat in die smaak sal val. Deur middel van boekuitstallings of die vertel van stories, ens. sal daar gepoog word om die kinders na die biblioteek te lok. Dit is nie die bedoeling om die skoolbiblioteke uit te skakel nie, maar daar sal noue samewerking bestaan tussen die skole en die dorpsbiblioteke. In my rondgaan vind ek dat die skole almal hierdie skema van harte verwelkom. In die eerste plek weet die onderwyser(es) dat 'n kind wat lees verstandelik baie hoër staan as 'n kind wat nie lees nie. Verder sal dit die skoolbiblioteek in staat stel om hom toe te lê op die aankoop van naslaanwerke van 'n besondere aard. Tot nog toe was dit met die beperkte fondse nie moontlik om hulle op voldoende wyse aan te skaf nie, aangesien meeste skoolbiblioteke die hele groot gebied van die kinderlektuur moes dek.

Verder is die bedoeling om 'n aparte diens in te stel vir nie-blankes, aangesien dit duidelik is dat wat die platteland betref die skema nie 'n sukses kan wees indien daar nie afsonderlike voorsiening vir hierdie groep van die bevolking gemaak word nie. Net soos daar aparte skole en hospitale vir nie-blankes is, sal hulle ook hulle eie biblioteekdiens hê. In dorpe soos Stellenbosch, Wellington, Paarl, Worcester en ander plekke waar daar 'n konsentrasie van opgevoede nie-blankes is, mag dit nodig wees om eie biblioteke vir hulle in te rig. Oor die algemeen sal

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dit egter voldoende wees as kaste boeke van tyd tot tyd na die sendingstasie, die skool, die lokasie of die kerk gestuur word. Dit word bereken dat die koste vir die instandhouding van 'n vrye diens vir nie-blankes uiteindelik sowat £20,000 per jaar (kapitale-uitgawes uitgeslote) sal beloop.

Wanneer hierdie skema in werking kom, sal dit nie vir die biblioteke nodig wees om hulle eie boeke soos tot nog toe uit beperkte fondse aan te koop nie, aangesien hulle voorrade op leen sal kry van die streekbiblioteek. Hierdie boeke sal by die dorpsbiblioteek gelaat word solank hulle in aanvraag is. Dit mag gebeur dat na 'n maand gevind sal word dat sekere boeke ongebruik op die rakke staan, en hierdie boeke sal dan spoedig ingeruil kan word vir ander. Wat ook van belang is, is dat geen boek op enige gemeenskap afgedwing sal word nie. Die keuse van die boeke sal by die biblioteekkomitee of by 'n plaaslike keurkomitee of slegs by die bibliotekaris berus, en hulle sal kan leen wat hulle van nut vind vir plaaslike gebruikers. Die Administrasie sal egter onderneem om enige goeie boek beskikbaar te stel. Indien dit nie in die streekbiblioteek voorkom nie, sal dit aangekoop of by ander biblioteke geleent word. Indien biblioteke oor enige fondse beskik, b.v. deur middel van een of ander funksie wat gereël is of donasie wat geskenk is, sou 'n biblioteekkomitee vry wees om hierdie geld te ten behoeve van die biblioteek te bestee, b.v. deur boeke aan te koop of die gebou op te knap of op enige ander wyse. Onder hierdie stelsel sal dit ook moontlik wees vir studente om verder te studeer al is hulle ver van 'n universiteitstad, omdat alles in die vermoë gedoen sal word om geskikte handboeke beskikbaar te stel.

Die Provinciale Administrasie het ook onderneem om nie een van die bibliotekarisse af te dank wanneer die diens ingestel word nie, tensy die biblioteekkomitee dit aanbeveel. Die bibliotekaris word egter 'n Provinciale amptenaar, word deur die Provinciale Administrasie betaal, en indien hy voltyds is sal so 'n persoon geregtig wees op pensioenen en ander voorregte. Van tyd tot tyd sal daar op verskillende plekke in die Provinsie vakansiekursusse gereël word waarheen die personeel uitgenooi en waar hulle in staat gestel sal word om hulle ten minste op 'n elementêre wyse in bibliotekwese te bekwaam. Uiteindelik sal na verwagting op meeste plekke opgeleide bibliotekarisse beskikbaar wees.

Vandag help die skole vir kinders tot by Std. VI of matrikulasié en dan word hulle aan hulself oorgelaat, terwyl dit vir elkeen duidelik is dat 'n mens van die wieg tot aan die graf moet lees en studeer. Baie word daar gesê ten opsigte van die opvoeding van die volwassenes, maar geen opvoeding van die volwassenes sal 'n sukses kan wees tensy

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die biblioteke opgeknap word en die versperring van subskripsies uit die weg geruim word nie. Vir elkeen wat graag lees is dit duidelik dat die omgang met goeie boeke strelend werk op die gemoed, die gees en die verstand. 'n Goeie boek is soos 'n goeie vriend : sy geselskap is opbouend. Dit word vertel dat daar 'n Chinese spreekwoord is wat sê dat as 'n persoon vir 14 dae nie met 'n goeie boek omgegaan het nie, dan is sy geselskap oninteressant. Terselfdertyd is dit waar dat 'n nasie wat lees geestelik en verstandelik hoër staan as 'n volk wat nie lees nie. Waarom moet dit dan nodig wees dat ons as volk agter sal staan by ander volkere wat reeds 'n begin hiermee gemaak het.

Hierdie skema is wel nuut vir ons land, maar vir oorsese lande soos die Verenigde State van Amerika, Denemarke, Kanada, Engeland, Skotland, Nu-Zeeland en ander is dit al jare in werking en boekdele is geskrywe oor die voordele van die stelsel. Om die waarheid te sê, vir 'n land soos die van ons met 'n verspreide bevolking is daar geen ander skema wat met sukses toegepas kan word nie. Dit is ook onbillik dat 'n boer wat ver van die naaste dorpsbiblioteek woon ontstoke moet wees van leesvoorruste.

In Transvaal is hierdie skema sowat drie jaar gelede begin en die ondervinding daar leer dat daar 'n ontsaglike toeloop na die biblioteke is soos die volgende syfers sal aantoon : —

Belfast het voordat die skema in werking gekom het 21 lede gehad. Onmiddellik daarna het die ledetal veertien keer gestyg na 281. Witbank — 481 lede styg tot 2,217.

Lydenburg — 80 lede styg tot 732.

Machadodorp — 13 lede styg tot 146.

Op die oomblik is die ledetal al baie hoër, maar die syfers wat gegee is toon die posisie onmiddellik voor en na die vrye diens ingevoer is aan. In die jaarverslag van die Johannesburgse Openbare Biblioteek vir 1945 tref die bibliotekaris 'n vergelyking tussen die toestand van die Biblioteek in 1945 teenoor die van 21 jaar gelede. In 1924 het die biblioteek naamlik vry geword toe dit deur die munisipaliteit oorgeneem is. Die bibliotekaris rapporteer as volg : —

"The immediate result of municipalization and the abolition of subscriptions in 1924 was a wide and rapid expansion of the lending library service. On 1st July, 1924, the number of registered borrowers was 4,200 ; at the end of the first year it was 8,465 and at 30th June, 1945, it was 86,790. In the 21 years the circulation of books from the lending libraries has increased from 289,328 volumes to 1,853,674. In 1924 there was only one point of service ; at 30th June, 1945,

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including branch, travelling, schools, hospitals, clubs and non-European libraries there were 221 places from which the library's books could be borrowed.'

Dan weer :—

'Since municipalization childrens' reading has increased seventeen-fold, books in foreign languages nearly fifteenfold and English non-fiction over sevenfold while the reading of English fiction has increased less than fourfold. The Afrikaans readers are of course practically all new since the Council took over the library.'

Die Afrikaanssprekendes word dikwels beskuldig dat hulle nie lees nie. Dit is tot 'n mate waar, maar dit blyk tog dat indien die fasiliteite geskep word daar oneindig meer van boeke gebruik gemaak word soos die volgende uit die verslag aantoon :—

'As a Municipal Free Library, much more attention was paid to Afrikaans ; in 1925 a separate record of Afrikaans circulation was started and in 1930 the term "Taal" was dropped. In 1925 the circulation of Afrikaans books was 100 a month ; in the year just completed it averaged over 22,000 a month.'

By wyse van opsomming en ten besluite wil ek dan net daarop wys dat die Konsep-ordonnansie *nie*—

- (a) biblioteekbates sal gaan konfiskeer nie ;
- (b) bestaande biblioteke uitskakel nie ;
- (c) burokratiese beheer vanuit Kaapstad instel nie (Vanuit Kaapstad sal daar gedesentraliseer word na streke, van streke na die dorpsbiblioteke en van die dorpsbiblioteke na dépôts op kleiner plekkies en by plaasskole) ;
- (d) ongewenste boeke op enige gemeenskap afdwing nie.

*Wat die Konsep-ordonnansie wel beoog, is*—

- (a) die uitskakeling van jaargelde ;
- (b) beskikbaarstelling van boeke aan elke lid van die bevolking ;
- (c) bevordering van onderwys vir volwassenes ;
- (d) vermeerdering van die waarde en belangrikheid van biblioteke ;
- (e) beter kwaliteit van diens.

Ek kan nie beter as om die volgende aan te haal uit 'n brief wat in die Oostelike Provinsie in een van die koerante verskyn het. Die korrespondent skryf :—

'If ever there was a piece of legislation that shows enlightenment and a realization of the needs of the country, it is this Draft Ordinance.' "

# BOOKBINDING AT THE PRETORIA EX-VOLUNTEERS CRAFTS AND INDUSTRIES<sup>1</sup>

J. GALLEGHER

*Secretary/Manager, Pretoria Ex-Volunteers Crafts and Industries*

IN AUGUST of 1943, when it became apparent that a considerable number of volunteers returning to the Union would be unable, for various reasons, to follow their pre-war callings in the open labour market, the Department of Social Welfare invited certain government Departments and other interested organizations to attend a conference for the purpose of exploring ways and means of effecting the Prime Minister's decision that no member of the Forces would be discharged until such time as suitable provision had been made for him or her. At this and subsequent conferences it was realized that there would always remain with us a certain number of ex-members of the Forces whose only salvation and hope of rehabilitation as decent members of the community lay in the establishment of workshops where they could be employed under sheltered conditions and at a remuneration that would enable them to live in, at the very least, frugal comfort. Sheltered Employment for Disabled Ex-Volunteers became *un fait accompli* in 1944, when the National Board for Sheltered Employment came into operation and workshops were established in Johannesburg, and the opening of others was sanctioned in the larger towns of the Union. Since that date the Department of Demobilization and Social Welfare has expended nearly three quarters of a million pounds on the establishment and maintenance of eighteen factories with over 1,700 sheltered employees.

The National Council for the Newspaper and Printing Industry, keen to do their share in this really ennobling work, approached the National Board for Sheltered Employment with the proposition that sections for the repair of library books be established in the Sheltered Employment Projects at Pretoria and Cape Town. It was estimated that there are approximately 30,000 volumes per annum in South Africa in need of repair, and arrears totalling roughly 120,000 volumes have accumulated during the war years. It can be readily appreciated from these figures that the bookbinding establishments in Pretoria

<sup>1</sup> Address : 373 Proes Street, Pretoria.

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and Cape Town can confidently look forward to permanent employment for their men, provided that the quality of the work produced is up to standard and the cost to the libraries compares favourably with the charges of overseas firms.

The experiences of the Pretoria Ex-Volunteers Crafts and Industries since commencing library repair work in March 1947 prove that work is being produced to satisfy the most exacting librarians in the country at a cost to them slightly below overseas charges with the added advantage of having the work returned in only a fraction of the time taken for delivery from overseas. The State Library, the Transvaal Provincial Library, the Johannesburg Municipal Library, together with numerous smaller town libraries, as well as clubs and schools are among the very satisfied clients of the Pretoria Ex-Volunteers Crafts and Industries. The present high standard of work produced can be attributed to the constructive criticism of the principal librarians and the courage and skill with which Mr A. Collier, the instructor and shop superintendent, applied the criticism tendered, and to the thorough training he has given to the men placed under his care. The workshop is now capable of repairing 1,500 books, of all kinds and sizes, per month and clients are never asked to wait longer than that time for the return of their work. The binding of periodicals is not undertaken.

The workshop is equipped with all modern appliances, with the exception of a sewing machine. All books sent for repair are stripped down to the sections, which are patched and strengthened, for sewing, which is done by hand. New covers are made of the best material obtainable and books finished as new.

The charges are reasonable as the following table shows :—

Cloth with Gold Lettering	4/-
Quarter Leather with Gold Lettering	5/-
Half Leather with Gold Lettering	7/6
Full Leather with Gold Lettering	12/6.

# UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

## SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP

### *Bibliographies*

*presented in typescript in partial fulfilment of the regulations for  
the higher certificate and diploma in librarianship, 1943-46<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> These bibliographies are not available for loan, but photostat copies may be ordered. They average 150 entries in length.

<sup>2</sup> Published by The African Bookman, Cape Town, 1948. 7s. 6d.

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## GERMAN CHEMICAL LITERATURE IN THE WAR YEARS AND AFTER

IN AN article under this title in *The S. African industrial chemist* 2 : 83-85 May 1948, Dr H. Coblangs gives a concise and useful survey of the subject, with numerous references to sources where fuller information can be obtained. Mention is made of ASLIB's war-time service in making available microfilms of German scientific periodicals (of which in many cases only one copy had reached Britain) and of the activities of the U.S. Office of Alien Property in arranging for photolithographic reprints of scarce German scientific books as well as periodicals.

The chief births, deaths, amalgamations and changes of form or title among German periodicals are noted, and the following list of chemical journals currently issued is given :—

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*Biochemische Zeitschrift*. Heidelberg. 1947.

*Chemische Patentlisten*. Heidelberg.

*Chemiker-Zeitung*. Köthen.

*Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft. Berichte*, ceased publication after 1944.

Revived in 1947 as *Chemische Berichte*. Heidelberg.

*Hoppe-Seyler's Zeitschrift für physiologische Chemie*. Berlin.

*Liebig's Annalen der Chemie*. Heidelberg. 1947.

*Makromolekulare Chemie*. Freiburg. 1947-. This replaces *Journal für praktische Chemie*, which became *Journal für makromolekulare Chemie* after 1943.

*Mikrochemie*. Vienna.

*Monatshefte für Chemie*. Vienna.

*Zeitschrift für analytische Chemie*. Munich (?). 1947.

*Zeitschrift für anorganische Chemie*. Leipzig.

*Zeitschrift für Elektrochemie*. Heidelberg.

*Zeitschrift für Naturforschung*. 1946.

This is followed by a list of new, international, multi-lingual periodicals :—

*Acta chemica Scandinavica*. Copenhagen. 1947.

*Acta Crystallographica*. Cambridge. 1948 (It is edited by Ewald, formerly editor of *Zeitschrift für Kristallographie*, which it replaces).

*Analytica chimica Acta*. Amsterdam and New York. 1946 (In effect this will probably oust the *Zeitschrift für analytische Chemie*).

*Biochimica et biophysica Acta*. Amsterdam and New York. 1947.

*Spectrochimica Acta*. Rome. 1947 (The Vatican has taken this over from Springer, who published the first two volumes in the period 1939-1944).

Of GMELIN's *Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie* half the 8. ed. had been published by 1943. Work is continuing at Klausthal, near Göttingen in the British zone.

## SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

BEILSTEIN. *Handbuch der organischen Chemie*. Six volumes of the projected 30 of the second supplement (covering the literature of 1920-30) have been published. A team of scientists is carrying on the work at Wiesbaden, but it is doubtful whether the work can be continued on the present basis, chiefly on account of the very high cost of production.

The writer then briefly refers to new techniques used in organizing literature, the chief of which is the use of punched cards for subject indexing.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Freer, P., comp. . .** A bibliography of African bibliographies (first comp. by P. Freer and D. H. Varley); rev. to Feb. 1948 (by A. M. Lewin Robinson). Cape Town, South African public library, 1948. 52 p. 21½ cm. (Grey bibliographies, No. 2). paper. 5s., interleaved 6s. 6d., (post free 5s. 3d., and 6s. 9d.).

This *Bibliography* first appeared in *South African libraries* 10(2)38-42, (3)66-73, Oct. 1942, Jan. 1943, as the fruit of much painstaking research by the original compilers, and this revision in more accessible form has been keenly awaited. In the revision a substantial number of entries have been added by the original compilers and by the present editor.

Apart from works published since the date of the original compilation, there are a large number of supplementary entries for earlier ones. The majority of these latter are short book-lists contained in monographs or collective publications, with only a handful of independent bibliographical works (including several in Portuguese). A large collection of Africana has evidently been diligently combed for these lists, many of which fall under new headings (e.g. Barotseland, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Nigeria, and other regions; Archives, Art, Bilingualism, Birds, Fisheries, and others).

The original arrangement under A. Africa generally, B. Africa regionally divided, C. Subjects, has been preserved. An occasional modification has been made in the choice of headings (e.g. Ethnography instead of Native life and custom), and some entries have been reshuffled under headings such as Cape Coloured people, Race relations and colour problems, etc.

Welcome additions are the author index, and the inclusion, under their appropriate subject headings, of the MS. bibliographies compiled by the students of the University of Cape Town School of Librarianship (*cf.* p. 21 of this issue).

The admiration and gratitude of librarians will go out to the reviser for giving us this useful tool. No work of this nature, however, would claim absolute finality. Two omissions noted by the reviewer are the 3rd (1941) edition of Dekker's *Afrikaanse literatuurgeschiedenis* (p. 19) and the new *Catalogue of books contained in the Record library of the Church of the Province of South Africa*, May 1947, which supersedes the very incomplete *Catalogue* listed on p. 23.

It is a pity, too, that a little extra time and care could not have been found to eliminate two misprints within the first four pages, and several punctuation misprints later on (e.g. p. 5, under MENDELSSOHN: "MS & on cards" instead of "MS & on cards"; and under PAULITSCHKE: "v. 123 p." instead of "v. 123 p.", a comma omitted under SCHONLAND on p. 22, and so on). And cataloguers and order assistants might have been spared a main entry complication by the inclusion on the title-page of the names of the original compilers and the reviser.

E. H.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED AND ANNOUNCED

**South African Council for Scientific Industrial Research.** *Liaison division.* Research organizations in the Union of South Africa. 1948. 45 l. mimeographed. Lists all the research divisions of government departments and industrial research institutes subsidized by the Government, such as the Leather Industries Research Association at Rhodes University College, the Department of Dust and Ventilation Research of the Chamber of Mines, and similar undertakings. The address, the name of the Director, and a brief description of activities is given in each case.

**Union of South Africa.** *Education department.* *National council for social research.* Register of current research in the humanities at universities. 1947. 42 l. mimeographed.

A comprehensive list of theses and other research projects at present in preparation, giving the name of the university, the name of the person undertaking the research, the subject of the research, the degree for which it is being undertaken (if any), and the approximate period of the research.

**Bookforecast/Bibliographia Internationalis Brill.** Leiden, Brill, 1948 - Monthly. \$7 to \$9 p.a.

Specimen issue, May 1948.

This is described as "the first international review of forthcoming publications in all fields of knowledge". Although a specimen issue has already been circulated, the first proper issue will appear in October. In this preliminary number 89 publishers have submitted entries, and a further 88 have promised future co-operation. Apart from well-known publishers in England and America, the list includes names from France, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, Tunis, India, Chile, Brazil, Mexico. The publication will, therefore, bring to the notice of librarians many publications which would normally escape their attention.

Entries are arranged by subject and full bibliographical details are given.

**Cape Town.** *University. School of librarianship.* Librarianship as a career: diploma and higher certificate in librarianship, 1948-1949; Certificate in librarianship 1948-1949. Cape Town, 1948. 27p. gratis.

As in previous years, details of the courses offered are preceded by a short causerie on librarianship, covering the nature of library work, the qualifications of a librarian, and the prospects of employment, so that, apart from its main purpose as a prospectus of the School of Librarianship, the booklet is a useful standby for librarians who from time to time receive inquiries about librarianship.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL BIBLINGS

### Early European Printing in the Indian Ocean

In an article under this title in *International bulletin for the printing and allied trades*, no. 45: 13-17, July 1948, Dr A. Toussaint reviews at some length the introduction of European printing in India, China, Japan, the Philippines, Siam, Java, Ceylon, Africa, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, South Africa and Australia.

Most interesting is the section on Mauritius, where, as Dr Toussaint has previously revealed (South African library. *Quarterlybulletin* 2(3) 75-83, Mar. 1948) printing was introduced in 1768, and was actively pursued for the next thirty years. Almanacs were issued fairly regularly since 1769. "From 1773 ten different newspapers were published... These were mainly of the informative type, but they also included one political and two literary papers... Official publications of a more general nature included quite a number of books and pamphlets representative of every branch of intellectual activity: scientific, literary, religious and political."

### Essays of Elia

M. Buxton Forman of 3 Elma Court, Schoeman Street, Pretoria, South Africa, writes on February 21, 1948:

"At the instigation of the Charles Lamb Society, I and my friend Mr John M. Turnbull, a keen Lamb expert and collector, have undertaken the preparation of an edition of the *Essays of Elia*, recording all the alterations made in them from the holograph state onward to the their latest publication in Lamb's lifetime.

"We know that a large number of these MSS. went to the States some years ago, and these we are anxious to trace.

In the course of correspondence with Mr Frederick R. Goff of the Library of Congress, he has suggested that we should ask you to circulate our request for information on this subject in your publication, and we should be very much obliged if you would kindly assist us in this way."

(Bibliographical soc. of America. *News sheet* no. 69, Apr. 15, 1948.)

# SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION

*S.A.L.A. Southern Transvaal Branch*

Vol. 2

July 1948

No. 1

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## NEWSPAPER LIBRARY WORK

MRS RENIE WOODHOUSE

*The Star, Johannesburg*

IT IS not easy to assess the value of a newspaper library, but a reasonably efficient one is of immense value to a newspaper with a large circulation. In our library we write up all cuttings and books taken out, but do not keep check of telephone calls and personal visits ; however, forty queries a day is a fair average. If the members of the editorial staff had to go out or telephone and seek this information elsewhere much valuable time would be lost, and the time element is one of the principal factors in a newspaper library.

Chief among the aims of a newspaper library are to serve the news department with material on current affairs, and biographical matter ; editorial writers also with books on history, maps, documents and general informative material ; and the features editor, who deals with special articles, with photographs of people and events, historical dates, literary quotations and scientific and biographical matter ; factual and statistical material is also always in demand.

The librarian in charge should be a person understanding the newspaper point of view, and interested in co-operating with all the other departments. He should be someone who reads newspapers and periodicals regularly, is interested in current affairs and has a flair for news, being able to discern if cuttings are of lasting value, and which news items are likely to lead up to important events. A good general knowledge, an excellent memory and journalistic training in research work are invaluable assets. A university degree and a diploma in librarianship are a great advantage, and they also usually command a better salary.

*The Star* library has been built up over twenty years, and has been fortunate enough to be housed in a large spacious office with an additional room for the storage of old matter and books, called the "morgue". In this way we are not hampered for space, as so many special libraries in large cities are, and we have been able to accumulate cuttings,

## NEWSPAPER LIBRARY WORK

photographs and reference books covering a vast number of subjects. This is, of course, very necessary where press work is concerned and where a great variety of subjects is dealt with daily.

We have forty-five filing cabinets for subject matter and another twenty-six for photographs and blocks. There are roughly 10,000 active files in use, and the filing system is based on that of the London *Times*, with ramifications to suit topics of South African interest.

Subject matter is divided into countries, South Africa being by far the largest section and occupying eleven filing cabinets. There are sections for the British Empire and the countries and islands therein, Great Britain, Foreign countries, and other subjects. Biographies of parliamentarians and leaders are kept in their own division and dealt with separately.

All sections are divided up alphabetically under various headings such as Agriculture, Defence, Education, Finance, Johannesburg (and other large cities), Natives, Municipal, Railways, etc. All important aspects of these subjects are given a separate file, and large red cards are inserted in the files for sub-divisions and cross references. It often happens that cuttings could go under more than one heading, in which case we take two cuttings and make cross references.

Each morning a senior member of the staff cuts up several copies of the City Late edition of *The Star* almost completely, but certain small items on the financial and sports pages are dealt with by the respective departments. The Stop Press edition is compared with the City Late and any items which have been dropped in the second edition are cut out. The second copies of important cuttings, which include speeches by prominent people, are then taken from the paper.

All the large cuttings are pasted on foolscap paper and the smaller ones are later pasted up by the assistants. Items of particular interest which have been dealt with from a different angle or have not appeared in *The Star* are cut from other daily papers and also from Sunday papers.

After the cuttings have been pasted up they are divided among the staff, who then write on the headings of the files. Thereafter these cuttings are circulated. In this way we each see them all, and we do not file our own cuttings.

Photographs are in charge of a special assistant, who compares the photographs cut from the papers with the blocks and pastes the captions on the back of the original photographs, with the date on which they appeared, and any other particulars such as fees, if they are not our own photographs. These are filed away in their own section under

## SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

headings similar to those of the subject matter. Photographs of personalities are entered into special books with the date of their arrival. Sports photographs are treated in the same manner. Daily lists of photographs appearing in *The Star* are compiled in a "day book" which gives origin, number of negative, and fee. This is a very useful reference book.

Crime cuttings are kept separate from the others and dealt with by one person, who lists them under the type of crime, case, and person convicted, and all are card indexed.

We have a comprehensive selection of reference books, blue books and government gazettes, and a good variety of historical, geographical and biographical books, which can be referred to by any member of the staff. The Municipal Library, which is quite near, is extremely helpful to us by way of loaning us books and giving us information if our own resources fail, and we reciprocate.

Periodicals and contemporary reviews come in regularly from London and after being circulated among the editorial staff are stored for future reference. Cuttings of importance are taken from *The Times* and background material and biographical matter from other papers. We have also *The Times* Index and bound copies dating back to 1917.

As the cuttings are taken from the Library by members of the editorial staff and kept for periods from a few hours to a few weeks, it has been found that the method of pasting the cuttings on paper helps to preserve them from wear and tear, and they are easier to keep in date order. Most newspaper libraries are content with having only date tabs on the cuttings.

Unfortunately, we have no card index system to the files, which is a great deficiency. At present we are in the process of clearing out current files and leaving in material from 1946 onwards. Earlier matter is kept in tins on the shelves for handy reference. After this reorganization we intend making a card index to the files and we hope eventually to index all the principal items appearing in *The Star* daily. Hitherto we have not had sufficient staff to cope with all this specialized work.

We are kept quite busy answering inquiries from our own editorial staff, and circulating material that is required as quickly as possible. We keep up a good liaison between the Library and our colleagues in other departments, as, of course, we are there primarily to serve their needs, and they in turn are helpful to us explaining any particulars we want to know about articles they have written and about current news. But other people sometimes use the Library, referring back to articles or photographs that have appeared, or occasionally for research work.

## WHAT THE SCIENTIST EXPECTS OF THE LIBRARIAN

Of course, we have a lighter side to our work, which is chiefly supplied by outsiders ringing up and asking the most extraordinary variety of questions. They generally start off with the phrase, "Can you help us?" or, "We are just having a bet". Then we are asked anything from the height of a building to details of crime cases, pigeon fanciers' addresses, the date of the last Test Match in Australia, how to address titled people, poetical quotations, questions suitable for a local quiz, and even the date of a garden party given by visiting royalty. But I must confess we could not supply the answer on how to make gorgonzola cheese. I believe it has something to do with the milk from discontented cows.

WHAT THE SCIENTIST EXPECTS OF THE LIBRARIAN : by HENRY GILMAN (In *College and research libraries* 8:329-32 July 1947.)

THE writer maintains that the role of a librarian in industry is unlike that of librarians elsewhere. "A Special Librarian is frequently expected to make bibliographic or literature surveys on new research projects, to write up a good report on such topics ; to make patent surveys and to examine pertinent patents for interference . . . to gather material to be used in addresses and to assist in translations and the preparation of manuscripts ; to avoid feeling wounded by an overdeveloped efficiency consciousness if some of his treasures are only nibbled at . . . and to do everything reasonable to supplement the overtaxed and limited memory of the scientist." These services he regards as orthodox and commonplace and goes on to consider what new services may be expected.

New tools are needed to assist in the collection and arrangement of the growing mass of new information. One of these is the system of punched cards which has already been put to practical use in several ways. Another is a device for which the name "memex" was coined. It is essentially a desk in which can be conveniently stored by microfilms and other means the widest collection of books, photographs and memoranda of all sorts. He also imagines that it may be possible for the scientist to receive information in his laboratory or office by means of visual or auditory receiving sets.

Professor Gilman thinks that a chemical library is as necessary as a laboratory to a chemist and to work effectively the research chemist must have his books on the spot. The ideal situation would be to buy two or more copies of books but this procedure is restricted to a few institutions. The librarian should develop determination and aggressiveness to obtain more funds to help the scientist in his library needs. He does not think that the scientist has fully appreciated the extent to which good teamwork with a librarian will advance research.

# AFDELING SKOOL- EN KINDERBIBLIOTEKE

*Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging*

Deel 9

Julie 1948

No. 1

## VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE THROUGH THE SCHOOL LIBRARY<sup>1</sup>

JEANNE MALHERBE

VOCATIONAL guidance is a process of assisting the individual in choosing an occupation and in planning a career. It is not a static bit of advice-giving which takes place at some fixed point of time in a child's school career, but is a "process of assisting" which normally covers many years of the individual's life.

The vocational guidance officer or the teacher responsible for vocational guidance in his school tries to get three things done for each pupil :—

1. He collects as much information as possible concerning the pupil.
2. He collects as much information as possible concerning the occupations which may turn out to be this pupil's career possibility.
3. He arranges individual personal discussions with the pupil in order to assist him in relating the two sets of information mentioned above.

These three major functions of vocational guidance have been called :—

1. Individual analysis.
2. Occupational information.
3. Counselling.

When vocational guidance is introduced in a school, it is advisable to concentrate firstly on the second of these major functions, namely on occupational information, because the need for more knowledge of the world's work is the most urgent need of the thousands of boys and girls who annually arrive at a time of their lives when they have to make decisions and choices in regard to their future careers. Without information about work opportunities, job requirements, earnings, hours of work, training and other such factors no young person can possibly find his best place in our intricate and diversified occupational world.

<sup>1</sup> Talk given to the School and Children's Library Section, Cape Branch, S.A.L.A. on 15 Apr. 1948.

## VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE THROUGH THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

There are various ways of providing occupational information. One way is through supplying pupils with various forms of literature on careers and career matters generally, and it is here that the school library can and should play its role. The answers to many of the students' questions on careers should be found on the shelves and in the files of the library. Every school library should have a careers shelf and an occupational information file. The presence of such a section alone would help to make the students career-conscious and may become the stepping stone to organized guidance work in the school.

Because of the dearth of South African occupational literature, we have to rely mainly on oversea, especially American, literature. Although the courses of training, conditions of work and salary scales given in oversea publications do not apply here, this literature is extremely useful chiefly on account of the excellent job descriptions given.

Because occupational literature goes out of date so quickly it is advisable to acquire pamphlet and leaflet material, which is free or inexpensive, rather than expensive books on specific careers or occupational trends. One of the most useful tools for ordering occupational literature in pamphlet or leaflet form is the *Occupational index*, a quarterly publication listing free and inexpensive American and Canadian material. The kind of occupational literature which the teacher librarian will find most useful will be determined by the needs of his pupils. These needs vary from group to group according to the stage of development the pupils have reached.

In regard to occupational information a pupil should pass through four stages :—

1. A general knowledge stage.
2. A looking around or window shopping stage.
3. A close examination stage.
4. An after choice stage.

1. *The general knowledge stage*, or, from the point of view of scholastic development, the primary school stage. Pupils in this stage are not yet career-conscious, but pupils in Standard V and VI should be acquiring knowledge of the world of work. At this stage pupils are not yet interested in salary scales, hours of work, pension schemes and other details concerning occupations, but want to know what the workers in different occupations do. To provide general knowledge about the work of mankind the teacher-librarian may use any kind of literature, for example geography handbooks such as *Britain at work*, *At work in distant lands*, and any other books from the geography, history and other sections dealing with the work of mankind.

## SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

### 2. *The looking around or window shopping stage*

In this stage the pupil is becoming more conscious of careers in relation to himself. He should now be encouraged to read books on career planning, telling him how to set about choosing a career. The school library should provide approximately half a dozen such books. The following books are recommended :—

1. BENNETT, G. V., and SACHS, G. M.  
*Exploring the world of work.* Society for occupational research, Los Angeles, 1937. \$2.75.
2. BROOKE, Mrs E. E., and Roos, M. M. B.  
*Career guide for young people and all who counsel them.* Harper, 1943. \$3.
3. COLINESE, S. G. *Choosing your vocation.* Van Schaik, 1940. 4s.
4. KITSON, H. D. *I find my vocation.* McGraw, 1931. 8s. 6d.
5. — *How to find the right vocation.* Harper, 1929. \$2.50.
6. MYERS, G. E., LITTLE, G. M., and ROBINSON, S. A.  
*Planning your future.* McGraw, 1930. 7s. 6d.
7. PARMENTER M. D. *You and your future.* Psychological corp., 1946. paper 45c. (Unit 1 of Cromwell, R. F., and Parmenter, M. D., Occupation course).
8. SMITH, C. M., ed. *After high school—what?* Burstein and Chappe, 1940. \$1 (paper 50c).

Pupils in this stage will also be interested in general handbooks on careers which will assist them in making a survey of career possibilities. The school library should contain approximately half a dozen such handbooks. The following are recommended :—

9. BREWER, J. M., and LANDY, E.  
*Occupation today.* Ginn, 1943. \$1.64.
10. COLE, M. I., ed. *The road to success.* Methuen, 1936. 7s. 6d.
11. FUGE, M., ed. *Careers and vocational training.* Women's employment publishing co., Ltd., London, 1946. 10s. 6d.
12. HUFF, Darrell, and HUFF, F. M. N.  
*Twenty careers of tomorrow.* McGraw, 1945. \$2.50.
13. JANSEN VAN RENSBURG, J. A.  
*Wat gaan jy word?* Nas. pers., Kaapstad, 1937. 7s. 6d.
- 13a. —  
*Your future career.* Longmans. [This book is being revised and brought up to date.]
14. KITSON, H. D., and LINGENFELTER, M. R.  
*Vocations for boys.* Harcourt, 1942. \$2.50.

## VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE THROUGH THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

15. LINGENFELTER, M. R., and KITSON, H. D.  
*Vocations for girls.* Harcourt, 1939. \$2.50.
16. POLLACK, P. *Careers in science.* Dutton, 1945. \$2.75.

### 3. *The close examination stage*

In this stage the pupil has developed definite vocational interests and now wishes to find out about these careers in greater detail. He now wants to know about courses of training, conditions of work, salary scales, prospects, etc. To satisfy his needs the teacher-librarian should provide literature describing these careers in great detail.

In this stage, more than in any other, South African literature is needed. As a result of the inauguration of vocational guidance services in the Transvaal and in the Cape, more South African occupational literature is being published. The Transvaal Education Department from time to time publishes pamphlets on careers, and occupational descriptions (which are reprinted as leaflets) appear regularly in the *Cape education gazette*. Teacher-librarians should acquire all these pamphlets and leaflets.

In addition to the publications mentioned above, government publications such as *The civil service*, *Careers on the South African Railways*, *The South African Police as a career*,<sup>1</sup> etc., are very useful.

The *Careers guide* (Johannesburg, Witwatersrand central juvenile affairs board, 3d. per copy), a monthly periodical written especially for South African boys and girls, should be in every school library.

Articles on careers also appear from time to time in general periodicals such as *Die Huisvrou* (Kaapstad, weekliks. 12s. p.j.), *Die Huisgenoot* (Kaapstad, weekliks. 15s. p.j.), *The Outspan* (Bloemfontein, weekly, 15s. p.a.) and others. Teacher-librarians should be on the look-out for such articles. The *Cape Times* until recently ran an excellent series of career articles in its week-end edition. These articles are being brought out in book form shortly.

Oversea pamphlets on specific occupations, such as those published by the Science Research Associates in Chicago, the National Roster series of the War Manpower Commission Bureau of Placement in Washington, the Vocational and Professional Monographs published by Bellmann in Boston, and the Ross careers books published by Ross in London are also extremely useful.

Pamphlet and leaflet material is best housed in a vertical file or filing cabinet and an excellent filing plan is set out in J. R. Yale's

<sup>1</sup>All obtainable from The Government Printer, Pretoria.

## SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES

*How to build an occupational information library*, revised edition, published by Science research associates in Chicago, 1946 (\$3.50).

### 4. *The after choice stage*

When a pupil has chosen his career his development towards his conception of a life work does not come to an end. By finding out as much as possible about his chosen career he should strengthen his interest in it to such an extent that it becomes a driving force.

In this stage the teacher-librarian should seek to provide the pupil with any type of literature which will increase his knowledge of his career—books, pamphlets, news items and magazine articles on developments in that occupation, wage agreements published in government gazettes, and even advertisements of posts in that field of work. The librarian should especially encourage the pupil to read biographies of workers in that occupation and works of fiction dealing with it. Such works of fiction are listed in *Vocations in fiction*, second revised edition, by M. Lingenfelter, published by the American library association, 1938 (\$1.25).

In addition to books on career planning, handbooks on careers, books and pamphlets on specific careers and occupational magazines, the school's occupational information library should provide reference material in the form of directories and university and college year-books and calendars.

A directory such as the *Cape times South African directory* contains a classified trades section listing firms of architects, engineers, lawyers, firms of manufactures, etc., which enable pupils seeking employment or apprenticeships to find the names of people whom they can consult for further information about careers.

The library should provide as many calendars and prospectuses of South African universities, colleges and technical and vocational schools, etc. as possible, to enable pupils who are planning further study to find out particulars about the courses in which they are interested. The university year-books especially will enable the pupil who has decided on the occupational field in which his interests and abilities lie to choose his school subjects according to the regulations for admission to a course laid down by the university. Too many pupils have to abandon their idea of taking a science or engineering, or other degree because they have not taken the required school subjects.

## READING INTERESTS OF DURBAN CHILDREN

MRS M. M. BARNES

*Librarian, Junior Department, Durban Municipal Library*

ONE OF the many interesting things I saw in my recent visit to British libraries was the report on an inquiry which the borough librarian of Middlesex had conducted into the reading of his large, widespread and very varied public. This particular review concerned only adult library members, but as my interests were, naturally, primarily with children, it was a simple matter to adapt this idea to our own Junior Library. The results of this investigation are given below.

A questionnaire was prepared which ran as follows:-

1. What kind of a book do you prefer?
  - (a) Do you like large books better than small ones?
  - (b) Do you like long stories better than short ones?
2. What kind of illustrations do you prefer?
  - (a) Do you like books with illustrations better than without?
  - (b) If you like illustrations, Do you prefer coloured pictures or do you prefer black and white?
3. Arrange the following types of stories in the order in which you like them. Place (1) against your favourite, (2) against the kind you like next best and so on.
  - (a) Fairy-tales and folk-lore
  - (b) General fiction (including family life in junior section and senior fiction according to age)
  - (c) School stories
  - (d) Adventure stories (including thrillers for the seniors)
  - (e) Historical tales
  - (f) Travel stories
  - (g) Scout and guide stories.
4. Write the names of your favourite authors in the order in which you like them.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
5. Do you read non-fiction for pleasure?
6. If so, what is your favourite subject?
7. Do you use books for a special purpose —books, for example, to improve your games or hobbies?
8. When do you read?
  - (a) Do you read nearly every day?
  - (b) " " " only when you have nothing else to do?
  - (c) Do you read only on holidays?
9. Where do you read?
  - (a) Do you read in bed?
  - (b) " " " in school?
  - (c) " " " at meals?
  - (d) " " " indoors? (e.g. in your lounge?)
  - (e) " " " outdoors? (e.g. in your garden?)
10. Who guides you in your choice of books?
  - (a) Do you ask your mother or father?
  - (b) " " " librarian?
  - (c) " " " school teacher?
  - (d) " " " other children?
  - (e) " " choose your own?
11. If you choose your own books, do you pick your book?
  - (a) By chance?
  - (b) According to a plan?
  - (c) If so, what plan?
12. What suggestions have you to make which you think might improve your library?

That was the questionnaire which we had roneo-ed on two foolscap pages. The first page held the first eight questions, so that quite half a page was left for any suggestions children might care to make.

## SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

These questions were given to boys and girls whose ages varied from a boy who gave his age as "nearly seven" to seventeen, after which age our members are expected to leave us and join the adult library. As this was intended as a preliminary experiment, only one hundred copies were made and ninety-six of them distributed amongst our members. We took care, of course, to cover as wide a variety of types and schools as of ages. Eighty-six papers were returned.

On the whole, the children were immediately interested. As many of their remarks are not only illuminating but practical and helpful, the following generalizations may be of interest to other children's librarians. For purposes of clearer classification we divided the papers into two groups—those of twelve years and under (this approximately covered the primary schools) and those of over twelve including children at high schools and technical schools and those who have newly started work.

*Question 1.* In this section, both age groups voted unmistakably for long stories in preference to short ones. Only four children among the juniors and three of the seniors voted for short stories.

*Question 2.* One might have expected an equally overwhelming vote for having illustrations in books, and, except for three seniors (one who stated that most pictures were disappointing and who preferred "making her own in her head", another who said he liked "coloured for stories and black and white for science", and a third complacent child who wrote: "I don't mind") the children were clearly in favour of illustrations. But when it came to the question as to whether these picture should be coloured or black and white, there turned out to be more votes for the latter than I had expected. Among those of twelve and under, 81 per cent were for coloured but in the older group this percentage had dropped to 55.

*Question 3.* The result in this question showed that the favourite types of stories, in order, are as follows :—

In the younger group : Adventure, General fiction (at this age these are mainly "family" stories), School stories (girls' papers were chiefly responsible for this), Travel, Fairy, Historical and, lastly, stories of scouts and guides. In the senior group the order is a little different. Adventure still heads the list, but Historical tales come second, Travel stories third, General fiction (which includes romances) fourth, School stories (again supported chiefly by girls between twelve and fourteen) fifth, scouts and guides sixth and Folk-lore last. We included the scouts and guides section because the movement is strong in Durban, and, as most of the local scouts and guides belong to the library, we have special shelves of fiction as well as non-fiction on their subject.

*Question 4.* The result of this was illuminating and, in some cases, not a little surprising. With the younger readers I fully expected to find that Enid Blyton

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—the author who seems to be on every child's lips—would head the list, but I was pleased to discover that Arthur Ransome proved the first favourite. Enid Blyton came second. Judging from the ages of the children who preferred Ransome and knowing their course of reading as I do, I have come to the conclusion that, although children enjoy the Blyton books while they are reading them, they do not remember them so vividly or as pleasurable as they do the Ransome stories. Quite a few children who I know read all the "Ransomes" a year or so ago, still voted for him. A year is a long stretch when you are only eleven or twelve.

The third favourite was F. W. Dixon who writes the "Hardy" books. In the fourth place, three authors—Margaret Sutton, Caroline Keene and Clair Blank—tie. They all write much the same type of superficial adventure story which I imagine will have a lively but short-lived popularity. Richmal Crompton of "William" fame came fifth and dear old Louisa Alcott, with her perennial "Little Women" series was sixth.

Not placed, but in order, followed D.F. Bruce (Dimsie books), Violet Needham, Hugh Lofting, Beatrix Potter and Noel Streatfeild.

The authors for whom the older children voted were : first of all W. E. Johns, whose "Biggles" and "Worrals" books cater for girls as well as boys between twelve and fourteen, and secondly Rudyard Kipling, who, again, is read by both but at a slightly older age. Third came R. L. Stevenson and P. F. Westerman, two vastly different types but both with a good following. Gene Stratton Porter (for *Freckles* and *Michael O'Halloran* principally) and L. M. Montgomery (for her *Anne of Green Gables* series) tie for fourth place.

No fewer than five authors tie for fifth place. They are Angela Brazil (girls' school stories, curiously enough, mostly widely out of date), Baroness Orczy (of *Scarlet Pimpernel* series), Agatha Christie (modern detective stories), Leslie Charteris (Saint books), and Charles Dickens, who may appear oddly out of place in this company, but is none the less welcome.

In the sixth place come, again tied, Alexandre Dumas, Mark Twain, Lord Baden-Powell and Georgette Heyer.

Not placed, but what would have been seventh in the list, follow Lewis Carroll, Edgar Wallace, Primrose Cumming (animal stories), and Harold Avery (boys' adventure stories).

In another group which follows this very closely come John Buchan, Jeffery Farnol, "Sapper", Rafael Sabatini, and Conan Doyle.

Questions 5 and 6 asked for information about reading non-fiction and began with: "Do you read non-fiction for pleasure?" The returns showed that most of them do. In the younger group the percentage of non-fiction read for pleasure is 63. Their most popular subjects, in order, are animals, history, travel, stamps, science, art, sport and encyclopaedias. In the senior group the percentage of non-fiction read for pleasure is even higher—it is 83. Travel is the favourite

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subject and it is followed by history, handwork, science, war, animals, sport, art and careers.

*Question 8—"When do you read?"*—was simplicity itself to tabulate, for, with the exception of one boy of twelve who said he read "only on rainy days", all the rest in the younger group read nearly every day. In the Over Twelve section, again, there is only one member who does not read nearly every day and he reads only in the holidays. Of course a questionnaire handed out to members of a library must of necessity fall into the hands of enthusiastic readers so that this result is not surprising.

*Question 9—"Where do you read?"*—brought more variety. Percentages here overlap, as it will be understood that one child can, and does, read in several places. Of the children under twelve 28 per cent read in bed, one prim little girl adding the information: "in a sitting position". 23 per cent read in school; 2 per cent read at meals and only 15 per cent of them read out of doors.

In the older class the percentage of those who read in bed is nearly 49. Only 19 per cent read in school, but anyone who knows the syllabus of a high school can understand that there is very little time in it for private reading. As it is, I suspect that this percentage is higher than it ought to be! Nine per cent read at meals, some explaining that this is "only when alone", which proviso I trust the others had taken for granted! Only 36 per cent read out of doors.

*Question 10* asked : "Who guides you in your choice of books?" This is again a little muddled when it comes to working out percentages because many of our children were helped by more than one person. It was very gratifying to find that most of our younger readers—thirty-four of the forty-five—chose their books themselves. Of course many of these did in the first instance rely on the librarian, but help from us had been so casually and quietly given that the ultimate choice really lay with the child. One paper, which was given to a mother who always gets books from us for her son whom we scarcely ever see in the library, came back marked to the effect that he chose his own, but the rest of the papers were for the most part true.

Twenty-four children are guided by the librarians, twelve by other children. Here again, I think the percentage should be a little higher, as I think other children's opinions carry more weight than members often realize. Six children rely on "Mummy" and only two on their teachers.

Among the older children, as with the younger, percentages must necessarily overlap but twenty-nine choose their own books, twenty-one get help from the librarians and eighteen from one another. Only five are guided by their teachers.

A few children have no plan in choosing books but just "take a book by chance". Most of them choose books by authors they hear about or have already enjoyed. One self-sufficient youngster writes "I go there knowing what I want".

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But it was in the answers to the last question, asking for suggestions for improving their library, that we found the children most interesting. Here are some of their ideas.

Quite a few handed in their answers saying : "I've put nothing in Number 12 because I've no complaints". Nineteen wrote that they were "satisfied" : "I have no suggestions to make as my library is run on the smoothest lines" ; "I don't know anything to make my library nicer" ; "Our library is certainly a pleasure-giving one" ; and so on.

But it was not to collect eulogies like this that we set the last question, and we were relieved to have other remarks in a different strain.

Sometimes two papers contradicted each other, as for instance, when one child wrote : "I should like to see more classics on the shelves", and another of the same age wanted "more modern books and fewer old ones".

Quite a large proportion express righteous indignation at the careless treatment books receive. "Steps should be taken", wrote one boy of fifteen, "to find out these maltreaters of literature and serious steps taken to prevent them repeating their acts." Another member of seventeen, also a boy, wrote : "Cancel the membership of members who are suspected of defacing and tearing the books ; a quick look through before the book is taken will aid in finding the culprits".

Now it so happens that in the Junior Library we have been keeping a check on the books and in much this way for the last three years, and scribbling and defacing is discovered at once (apart from "suspecting" members). The result has been that writing and colouring in books has practically disappeared from recent books. Curiously enough this otherwise observant child has not been aware of this.

Another suggestion which shows how queerly blind children can be is this : "I suggest that the notice of the children be drawn to the 'SILENCE PLEASE' notices." I rather fancy that this has been dictated by an officious Papa who doesn't know that we have no such notices in the Junior Library and that we pride ourselves on maintaining "reasonable quiet" without them.

Other suggestions were :—

1. That all books reviewed in *Young Natal* broadcasts should be listed because many children are at games when the broadcast is given. This is a position which we did not realize and lists are now shown on a special board.
2. Reference books should be taken out if wanted. Actually our rule as to reference books has always been very elastic and, except for a few special books, most of them have been lent to reliable members, but it is evident that this is not generally known.

3. "Can we reserve books by paying 3d. as they do in the adult library" ?

This is a request which I personally would be very sorry to see granted. As it is, we put aside any book a member asks for on the understanding that if any

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other member asks for it by title before he comes back for it, then it is given out. This system ensures that a book which one member wants particularly is not left on the shelf to be picked up by any casual borrower who would be just as pleased with something else. The child who has 3d. extra to spend has no special priority because of that affluence over one who has not.

4. "More comfy chairs" were asked for by one member; lower shelves by another. I'm afraid the chairs (lovely teak ones they are, too) must wait for cushions, but we have so arranged our Young Readers shelves that all their books are now within four feet of the floor.

5. Two members asked whether a stamp club could be formed within the library. This suggestion seemed so sensible that we decided to put it to the members. Straightaway a list was opened for names of those who were interested, with the result that there is now a small but enthusiastic Stamp Club which meets in the Junior Library every Wednesday for "swapping". The children run it themselves, with their own secretaries and committee, and have already enjoyed one talk from a local philatelist. They have also the promise of an illustrated talk from the City Librarian and the gift of a book prize from an interested parent for any competition the committee decide upon.

Twenty-nine members asked for more books—a very healthy sign among library members. One child wanted more periodicals—a request not easy to grant when suitable ones are so limited. A few asked for more school "set" books—a suggestion which, for obvious reasons, is not a practical one from the librarian's point of view. One girl surprised us by asking for "more librarians"—a request which gave us seriously to think and left us wondering. We still are!

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The school library described in *A Fledgling* in our last number is the Observatory Boys' High School Library, Mowbray, C.P. Mrs I. Lomberg is the voluntary full-time librarian

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## SECTION SECRETARIES

*Cape:* Miss M. E. Green, Jagger Library, University, Rondebosch

*Southern Transvaal:* Miss P. H. Isaacson, Kensington Branch, Public Library, Johannesburg; and Miss F. Z. Greenberg, Athlone High School, Johannesburg

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The Hon. Editor, *South African Libraries*, University of the Witwatersrand  
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